



**BORDER 2012 NATIONAL COORDINATORS COMMUNIQUE
FOR THE CREATION OF A BORDER-WIDE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS TASK FORCE**

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Considering that the new Border 2012: U.S.-Mexico Environmental Program (Program) is rapidly approaching its stage of implementation,

Considering that the Guiding Principles of this Program seek to “achieve concrete and measurable results while maintaining a long-term vision” and “to measure the program progress through the development of environmental and public health-based indicators,”

Considering that the Program seeks to continue the successful elements of previous border programs, and that the Border XXI Program (1996-2000) dedicated important efforts to the development of bi-national environmental indicators;

Therefore, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concur in that a critical element necessary to achieve these goals will depend on the ability of the Program Partners, its beneficiaries, and other stakeholders, to objectively measure the progresses in the attainment of the goals and objectives that the Program is pursuing.

For this reason, the Border 2012 National Coordinators shall immediately establish a Bi-national Task Force (Task Force) in order to develop and monitor performance indicators for the Program.

In addition, we recommend that SEMARNAT and EPA share the responsibilities over the coordination of the Task Force, but also that representatives from the Program Partners participate in its composition. For this reason, we designate Salvador Sánchez on behalf of SEMARNAT and Lee Pasarew on behalf of EPA, to facilitate and monitor the efforts for the establishment of this Task Force and to initiate its activities.

Given the important role that the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP) has played in support of the Program Partners, through their drafting of an indicators index for the Border 2012 Program, we recommend that the Task Force continue to work closely with SCERP.

We also consider the Task Force core objective is: to identify and develop a set of performance-based indicators that best contribute to measure, in an objective, reliable, transparent, and valid manner, the progressive accomplishments of the goals and objectives of the Program. Nevertheless, this objective will in no manner hamper the Task Force from pursuing additional objectives.



For these reasons, we encourage all the Program Partners to support the Task Force by providing representatives to the Task Force. Immediate contact with the Co-chairs of all Program coordinating bodies must be established, in order to undertake the actions necessary to initiate this Performance Indicators Task Force; and therefore to complete its first task, a plan describing how the Task Force will be organized, what its goals are and how it will operate.

The Task Force for the Program shall begin work no later than October of this year.

We acknowledge all the Border 2012 Program Partners, as well as commend them for their determined participation in this important bi-national program and for their permanent commitment towards improving the environment along the U.S.-Mexico border region.

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